# **ED 592A - Project Proposal Guidelines**

The guidelines listed here in each of the three chapters are suggestions for your project proposal. There are always variations from one project to another. Students are expected to make his/her judgment and to discuss with the instructor what additional contents should be included.

**Chapter I Introduction**

* + Introduce background information - **Chapter One**
  + State the research problem – **Research Problem**
  + Justify why your study is needed - **Significance**
  + Delineate the study purpose and research questions/ hypotheses – **Research Question**
  + Definitions of terms – **Definitions of Terms**

## Chapter II Literature Review

The following guidelines are organized based on an online document from Purdue University: *“Literature reviews are designed to do two things: 1) give your readers an overview of sources you have explored while researching a particular topic or idea, and 2) demonstrate how your research fits into the larger field of study”* (<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/666/01>).

* + Choose a variety of articles that relate to your subject (i.e., current issues/problems relevant to your study), even if they do not directly answer your research question.
  + Select the most relevant information from the articles as it pertains to your subject and your purpose. Remember, the purpose of the literature review is to demonstrate how your research question fits into a larger field of study.
  + Look for applications, if any, of previous research findings to professional practice relevant to your study.
  + Critically examine the articles. Look at methodology, statistics, results, theoretical framework, the author's purpose, etc. Include controversies when they appear in the articles.
  + Organize your information in the way that makes most sense.
  + Make sure the information relates to your research question/thesis. You may need to explicitly show how the literature relates to the research question; don't assume that the connection is obvious.
  + Check to see that you have done more than simply summarize your sources. Your literature review should include a critical assessment of those sources.
  + Be sure to develop questions for further research. Again, you are not simply regurgitating information, but you are assessing and leading your reader to questions of your own, questions and ideas that haven't been explored yet or haven't been addressed in detail by the literature in the field.

A few suggested online documents on how to write literature review:

* + http://library.ucsc.edu/help/howto/write-a-literature-review
* http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/666/01
  + http://faculty.mwsu.edu/psychology/Laura.Spiller/Experimental/sample\_apa\_style\_litreview.pdf

## Chapter III Research Methodology

* + State your study purpose and research questions - **Purpose**
  + Propose a design for your study – **Study Design**
    - Explain why you chose the design (or delineate your theoretical framework) -
  + Describe how you implement the design - **Procedures**
  + Describe research **setting** and **sample**. Provide demographic information as detailed as possible – **Setting and Sample**
  + Describe your measurement instruments. Provide information on the development of your measurement instrument. Validity and reliability of assessment results should be included. - **Instruments**
  + Describe data collection procedures – **Data Collection**
  + Explain data analysis methods – **Data Analysis**